

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions of claims in the application. Please amend claims 1-7, 9 and 10 as indicated.

Listing of Amended Claims:

1. (Amended) A valve assembly for an air brake system comprising:
a valve housing having a blind bore and a counter-bore;
a first valve member received in the blind bore having a first portion and a second portion forming an interference fit with the first portion; ~~the first valve member comprising; and~~
_____ a check valve assembly interposed between the first and second portions and maintained in an assembled state within the first and second portions, the check valve assembly including a biasing member, a follower, and a check valve member; and
a second valve member received in the counter-bore of the valve housing, the first valve member and the second valve member in pneumatically operative communication with each other to provide a selected output from one of at least two pneumatic inputs.
2. (Amended) A valve assembly for an air brake system comprising:
a valve housing having a bore;
a valve member received in the bore having a first portion and a second portion forming an interference fit with the first portion;
_____ a check valve assembly interposed between the first and second portions and maintained in an assembled state within the first and second portions, the check valve assembly including a biasing member, a follower, and a check valve member;
wherein ~~The valve assembly of claim 1 wherein~~ the first portion includes a recess and the second portion includes ~~d~~ protrusions extending therefrom and received in a friction fit engagement with the recess.
3. (Amended) The valve assembly of claim ~~1~~ 2 wherein the first portion of the valve member is formed from a non-metallic material.
4. (Amended) The valve assembly of claim ~~1~~ 2 wherein the second portion of the valve member is formed from a non-metallic material.
5. (Amended) The valve assembly of claim ~~1~~ 2 wherein the first portion of the valve member is formed from a non-metallic material and non-circular passages are provided therethrough to enhance flow.
6. (Amended) A ~~proportioning~~ valve assembly comprising:
a housing having a blind ~~ended bore opening~~ formed therein and a counter-bore;
a first valve assembly dimensioned for receipt in the blind ended bore opening, the valve assembly including a first portion formed from a non-metallic material having at least one passage extending therethrough and having a recess formed at an open end thereof, and a second portion formed from a non-metallic material and including a surface dimensioned for

interference fit with the recess, and a check valve assembly received within the first and second portions including a spring, a spring follower, and a valve member disposed in abutting engagement within the first and second portions whereby the first valve assembly is maintained in assembled arrangement by the interference fit between the first and second portions allowing the first valve assembly to be easily inserted into the blind ended bore opening, and a second valve assembly received in the counter bore, the first valve assembly and the second valve assembly in pneumatically operative communication with each other.

7. (Amended) A valve assembly comprising:
a housing having a blind opening formed therein;
a valve assembly dimensioned for receipt in the opening, the valve assembly including a first portion formed from a non-metallic material having at least one passage extending therethrough and having a recess formed at an open end thereof, and a second portion formed from a non-metallic material and including a surface dimensioned for interference fit with the recess, and a check valve assembly received within the first and second portions including a spring, a spring follower, and a valve member disposed in abutting engagement within the first and second portions whereby the valve assembly is maintained in assembled arrangement by the interference fit between the first and second portions allowing the valve assembly to be easily inserted into the blind opening. ~~The assembly of claim 6 wherein the second portion includes raised protrusions disposed in spaced relation along the first portion for frictional engagement with the recess.~~

8. (Original) The assembly of claim 7 wherein the second portion includes a circumferentially continuous shoulder dimensioned for receipt in the recess.

9. (Amended) A method of assembling a ~~proportioning~~ valve assembly, the method comprising the steps of:
providing ~~having~~ a housing with a blind bore and associated opening therein,
~~comprising the steps of:~~
providing a first non-metallic valve member portion having an open end defining a recess;
providing a second non-metallic valve member portion having a shoulder dimensioned for receipt in the recess of the first portion;
inserting a check valve assembly between the valve member first and second portions; and
frictionally engaging the shoulder in the recess to encase the check valve member between the first and second valve member portions and define a sub-assembly, wherein the housing is adapted to receive the sub-assembly.

10. (Amended) The method of claim 9 comprising the further step of sealingly inserting the sub-assembly into the blind bore opening in the housing.

Application No. 09/435,570

Amendment dated August 20, 2004

In response to Office Action dated May 20, 2004

11. (Original) The method of claim 9 including the steps of placing the check valve assembly into a cavity in the second valve member portion and advancing the first and second portions toward one another prior to the frictional engagement step.